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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Emergency assistance to the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II.	CURRENT SITUATION IN THE SUDAN	3 - 15	2
III.	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN	16 - 59	5
	A. General	16 - 26	5
	B. Relief food assistance	27 - 35	7
	C. Non-food assistance	36 - 55	9
	D. Assistance to refugees	56 - 59	13
IV.	ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES	60	14
	Member States	61 - 82	14
V.	OBSERVATIONS	83 - 88	17

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 48/200 of 17 March 1994 on emergency assistance to the Sudan, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the cooperation between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations, which had resulted in a number of agreements and arrangements to facilitate relief operations and enhance their efficiency and effectiveness, and encouraged the Government to continue to improve on their implementation. The Assembly appealed to all parties concerned to continue to pursue dialogue and negotiations and to terminate hostilities in order to allow for the re-establishment of peace, order and stability and also to facilitate relief efforts. The Assembly also called upon the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs of the country, including its recovery and rehabilitation needs and to national capacity-building in the areas of emergency management, preparedness and prevention.

2. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for the Sudan Emergency Operations and Operation Lifeline Sudan, to assess and report on the emergency situation, the recovery and rehabilitation of the country, to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

II. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE SUDAN

3. Since the last report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan (A/48/434), the suffering of millions of people affected by conflict and drought has continued. In southern Sudan, fighting between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has intensified, displacing hundreds of thousands of people and hindering efforts to provide relief assistance to affected populations. Continued clashes between rival factions of SPLM have aggravated the situation. Assessments by the United Nations and its partners in relief identified an estimated 5.2 million conflict-affected people within southern Sudan, in the transitional zones and in urban displaced persons' centres in northern Sudan, who are in need of emergency assistance. Another 1.3 million drought-affected people in northern Sudan were found to be in need of emergency food aid. Despite a marked growth in access and humanitarian activity during 1993, the situation has caused living conditions in southern Sudan to deteriorate during the first half of 1994.

4. Since September 1993, government military activity has intensified in eastern and western Equatoria towards the Sudan's southern borders with Uganda, Kenya and Zaire, causing mass displacement of people. Since late 1993, government planes have carried out aerial bombardments, with many bombs falling in or near heavily populated civilian areas, including displaced persons' camps. As a result of this military activity, up to 100,000 displaced people in the camps at Ame, Aswe and Atepi and 35,000 people in the Kotobe camp near Mundri were forced to move again in the first half of 1994. Fighting between the Government and SPLM has also displaced about 35,000 people in the Kaya and Kajo-Keji areas of Equatoria.

5. The Government of the Sudan has also stepped up its military offensive in areas of Bahr el-Ghazal, with troop movements and sporadic aerial bombings. This insecurity, combined with lack of food due to drought, has caused further displacement of vast numbers of people within northern Bahr el-Ghazal and to the transitional zones in southern Kordofan.

6. Fighting has continued in 1994 between two factions of SPLM, namely SPLM (Mainstream) under the command of Mr. John Garang and SPLM (United) under the command of Mr. Riak Machar. This inter-factional fighting undermined the humanitarian efforts of the United Nations and its partners in relief and resulted in further displacement of populations. In addition, inter-ethnic clashes in the Sobat basin and Akobo areas of Upper Nile have caused thousands of civilians in several villages to leave their homes, including in Nasir, from where 1,000 unaccompanied children fled.

7. Conflict has disrupted relief operations in all these areas and has prevented the displaced people from planting, despite the delivery of seeds and tools, in time for the rainy season. Insecurity often forced the evacuation of relief workers from the region, putting a temporary halt to emergency activities and endangering the lives of humanitarian personnel. In some cases, populated civilian areas that had been relatively stable have been left deserted as a result of these military activities, completely destroying achievements of previous rehabilitation activities aimed at increasing the self-sufficiency of the population.

8. The influx of the displaced from northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile to areas in southern Kordofan, specifically into the towns of Abyei and Meiram, had reached approximately 200 people a day in the first months of 1994. The deteriorating health and nutritional condition of many of these people, newly displaced by insecurity and lack of food due to drought, has continued to be of grave concern to the United Nations.

9. Failed harvests have created an extremely difficult food situation in drought-prone regions of Kordofan, Darfur and many other areas of the country. The poor agricultural situation has resulted in widespread grain shortages leading to a huge increase in cereal prices in local markets. These high cereal prices are beyond the reach of a large segment of the population of the Sudan, affecting millions of people.

10. Several Government-held towns in southern Sudan are among the worst affected by food shortages and high cereal prices. The critical food situation has resulted in hundreds of malnutrition-related deaths of children in the main government garrison towns of Juba, Malakal and Wau. The United Nations has attempted to supply these and other affected areas with adequate food supplies for distribution to the affected populations, particularly by air, river and rail corridors. These efforts have been hampered by a combination of insecurity along surface corridors and lack of resources to carry out air operations. The Government of the Sudan continued to restrict the access of international non-governmental organizations to the area, severely hindering efforts to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people in need.

11. The plight of the approximately 1.9 million internally displaced people and squatter citizens in and around Khartoum has worsened. Over the past year, at least 23,000 families have lost their homes and means of livelihood as a result of government-ordered demolitions of unauthorized displaced and squatter settlements, with a drastic escalation of demolition activities since June 1994. Many of the families affected by the demolition policy have been forcibly relocated by the Government of the Sudan to one of four official displaced persons' camps in the Khartoum area. These official camps, three of which are located on the periphery of the city, are characterized by poor water, sanitation and health facilities, very high malnutrition rates and little prospect of employment or income-generating activities. Efforts by the United Nations and its partners in relief to address the emergency needs in the camps have resulted in some improvements. However, the Government continues to limit access and the flow of humanitarian assistance to the camps, as well as severely restricting relief interventions for the displaced and squatter citizens living outside of the camps. In view of this situation, the majority of the displaced population in and around Khartoum, virtually all originating from southern Sudan, continue to live in a desperate and precarious situation with little prospect of positive change.

12. Despite continued attempts by the United Nations to assess the conditions and relief needs of populations in the Nuba mountains, access to the area in 1994 remained extremely difficult owing to insecurity and lack of clearances. Concerned about the situation, as well as the displacement of vast numbers of Nuba people, the United Nations will continue to exert strong efforts to reach affected populations in the Nuba mountains. The United Nations, together with national and international non-governmental organizations, provided humanitarian assistance to "peace villages" established by the Government of the Sudan in southern Kordofan, where a part of the displaced Nuba population has been relocated.

13. In 1994, the heads of State of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda embarked on an initiative to resolve the conflict in the Sudan under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD). An IGADD Peace Committee, comprising the foreign ministers of the latter four countries, began a series of negotiations in Nairobi with delegations representing the Government of the Sudan, SPLM (Mainstream) and SPLM (United). The next round of IGADD-sponsored peace negotiations resumed in Nairobi in early September.

14. As part of the regional peace process, an IGADD Subcommittee on Humanitarian Affairs was formed to facilitate United Nations efforts to ensure safe access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected areas in southern Sudan. Under this IGADD initiative, a United Nations delegation led by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan participated in a series of talks to resolve disagreements among the parties to the conflict for the provision of relief assistance in southern Sudan. As a result, an agreement among the parties was reached on 17 May 1994 that expanded the ability of the United Nations and its partners in relief to provide humanitarian assistance to the region through approved road, river, rail and air corridors. In addition, all parties to the conflict agreed on the principles for the implementation of the Child Immunization Campaign of the

United Nations of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

15. In the second half of 1993, the Government of the Sudan partly reversed a radical economic liberalization programme introduced in 1992. Controls on prices, banking transactions and external trade were reinstated in response to continued high inflation and shortages of foreign currency. Steps taken by the Government to alleviate some of the effects of economic liberalization have done little to ease the burden on vulnerable groups in the country.

III. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN

A. General

16. Emergency requirements for the Sudan for 1994, as reflected in the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal of January 1994 and subsequent amendments, amount to $193 million in the food aid sector and $68 million in the non-food sector. As of June 1994, contributions for food aid totalled $125 million. Contributions for non-food activities amounted to $20 million.

17. Extensive assessments of the most affected areas, carried out by the United Nations and its partners in relief in September and November 1993, formed the basis for the needs and resource requirements outlined in the 1994 consolidated appeal. The assessment exercise, the most comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken in the Sudan, collected data on household food security and other relevant indicators in a total of 75 affected areas within southern Sudan and the transitional zones.

18. The United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan visited Khartoum in December 1993. His visit was aimed at reviewing and strengthening the implementation of existing agreements reached between the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan on the principle of access to all in need, measures to facilitate the work of non-governmental organizations and the effective use of surface transport along approved relief corridors in southern Sudan. Specifically, the Special Envoy reviewed the implementation of the December 1992 agreement on corridors of tranquillity for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through Operation Lifeline Sudan, the January 1993 agreement on improving the operating environment of international non-governmental organizations working in government areas and the August 1993 agreement negotiated during the Special Envoy's first mission to the Sudan on improved access to all affected areas by international relief agencies.

19. From 26 to 28 April 1994, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs met with relevant officials of the Sudanese Government in Khartoum to further review the implementation of agreements and address issues affecting relief operations in the Sudan.

20. With respect to the December 1992 and the August 1993 agreements, the United Nations has experienced an increased cooperation vis-à-vis the Government of the Sudan on a number of issues over the past year, resulting in a significant improvement in United Nations access to affected areas in southern

Sudan and the transitional zones. Concrete achievements include: a marked increase in the number of United Nations international monitoring personnel posted in affected government-held areas including Abyei, Meiram, Juba, Malakal, Wau, Bor, Kapoeta, Torit, Dilling and Kadugli; an improvement in government clearances of monthly United Nations flight plans for air delivery of relief supplies; a streamlining of procedures for securing government approvals of United Nations barge and rail convoys on agreed-upon river and rail corridors; and the deployment and operation of radio communications equipment for United Nations personnel posted in government areas and on mobile relief convoys.

21. International non-governmental organizations working in government areas, however, continued to face serious operational difficulties and a restrictive and negative environment. In spite of commitments made by the Government of the Sudan, international non-governmental organizations have experienced little or no substantive improvements in terms of access to affected areas in southern Sudan and the transitional zones. Specific difficulties include the issuance of travel permits and visas for international project staff, recruitment of local staff, misappropriation of assets and relief supplies by local authorities and non-approval of proposals to establish relief projects in affected areas. Little progress has been made in the implementation of four international non-governmental organization projects specified in the August 1993 agreement. The Commission of Voluntary Agencies, established in the wake of the January 1993 agreement to serve as the government focal point for international non-governmental organizations, has not been able to significantly facilitate humanitarian efforts in the Sudan. In view of the critical role played by international non-governmental organizations, the situation has had serious detrimental effects on the implementation of humanitarian relief activities in the country.

22. With the IGADD-sponsored agreement of May 1994, the United Nations and its partners in relief obtained the widest access ever for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in southern Sudan under the umbrella of Operation Lifeline Sudan. The May 1994 agreement, expanding on the December 1992 agreement, grants access to 66 air corridors (plus 11 additional sites pending further assessments), four river corridors, five cross-border road corridors and one rail corridor. In addition, all parties to the conflict reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of Operation Lifeline Sudan, including safe and unhindered passage for and delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians on all sides of the conflict.

23. In spite of these commitments from the parties to the conflict, United Nations convoys carrying relief supplies along approved river, rail and road corridors were subjected to an increased level of looting, interference and danger in the first half of 1994, primarily but not exclusively in SPLM-held areas. In February 1994, a five-member UNICEF medical team on a barge convoy along the Nile river were detained for several days by SPLM in the Atar area of Upper Nile. In June 1994, another United Nations barge convoy was forcibly stopped by SPLM in Jonglei and close to 2,000 tons of food and non-food relief items were looted over an eight-day period. In the same month, a United Nations train convoy loaded with 1,480 tons of relief supplies was looted four times by soldiers and civilians between Meiram and Awiel and virtually all the cargo was stolen. Numerous attacks on United Nations personnel and trucks carrying relief

supplies into southern Sudan forced the temporary suspension of cross-border road convoys in the region.

24. These serious incidents have endangered the lives of United Nations personnel, reduced the flow of humanitarian assistance to often desperate and otherwise inaccessible populations along river, road and rail corridors, and limited the ability of the United Nations to take full advantage of the cost-effective surface delivery channels approved in the December 1992 and May 1994 agreements. While the United Nations will continue to make efforts to safeguard the use of surface corridors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the situation has increased the need to transport relief supplies by aircraft. Insufficient donor funding for air operations in the first half of 1994 prevented Operation Lifeline Sudan from reaching target populations with adequate relief food, medicines and other emergency inputs.

25. In response to the international community's continued concern over the critical humanitarian situation, the United Nations organized a Donor Consultation on Priority Emergency Needs in the Sudan, which was held in Geneva on 21 June 1994. At the meeting, representatives of United Nations agencies, donor countries, the International Committee of the Red Cross and international non-governmental organizations reviewed the implementation of existing agreements on the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected people in the Sudan and discussed operational issues and outstanding emergency requirements to be met before the end of 1994.

26. In the days following the donor consultation, the United Nations prepared a Plan of Action for emergency assistance to the Sudan, which set out priority relief activities and strategies for improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected areas of the country.

B. Relief food assistance

27. The 1993 cereal harvest in the Sudan was considerably less favourable than in 1992, primarily owing to a decrease in areas planted, inadequate and erratic rainfall, pest infestation and flooding. Traditional rain-fed agricultural areas in northern Darfur and northern Kordofan were subjected to near complete crop failure. In southern Sudan, an intensification of hostilities compounded by scattered drought conditions continued to displace large numbers of people, rendering them unable to sustain themselves and creating the threat of mass starvation.

28. After undertaking extensive field visits in November and December 1993, the assessment mission carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) concluded that 2.4 million conflict-affected and 1.3 million drought-affected people in the Sudan were suffering from acute food shortages and would require 487,000 tons of emergency food aid in 1994.

29. In the first half of 1994, the international community's response to this urgent need, as contained in the United Nations consolidated appeal for the Sudan, was moderately favourable with some 250,000 tons of emergency food aid

pledged up to June 1994, excluding slightly more than 50,000 tons of food aid stocks carried over from 1993. Most pledges, however, have been either earmarked for Operation Lifeline Sudan southern sector cross-border operations or have been directly in response to requests from international non-governmental organizations in northern and southern Sudan. Only 32,000 tons of emergency food aid had been pledged up to June 1994 for WFP operations involving the delivery of relief from northern Sudan by barge, air, road and train to affected Government and SPLM-held areas of southern Sudan and the transitional zones, as well as to drought-affected areas of northern Sudan where international non-governmental organizations are not operating. Also, the delivery of food aid to affected areas accessed from Khartoum was hampered at the end of 1993 and start of 1994 by the failure of the Government of the Sudan to fully meet its 1993 pledge to provide 153,000 tons of sorghum for distribution by the United Nations and its partners in relief. A total of 80,000 tons of sorghum was provided by the Government for the emergency programme in the Sudan.

30. Cash contributions to transport relief food to affected populations have been below requirements. Insufficient financial resources in the first half of 1994 forced WFP to scale back its air operations by 50 per cent, affecting some 500,000 displaced people with potentially tragic consequences.

31. In northern Sudan, drought conditions have resulted in a serious food situation for people in northern Kordofan and northern Darfur. Although the nutritional status of the population in these areas has remained generally stable, primarily due to well-established coping strategies and targeted relief distributions, WFP and international relief agencies working in the most-affected areas are concerned that these coping mechanisms are starting to break down following 10 years of almost consecutive crop failure. The goat/grain terms of trade, one of the key famine indicators, has fallen sharply, particularly since March 1994. The food situation has improved in the Red Sea Hills area of eastern Sudan, but the improvement in this area has been offset by the unexpected deterioration of food security in areas of southern Darfur and the central part of the country.

32. Affected populations in southern Sudan have shown less resilience to cope without outside food intervention than drought-affected populations in northern Sudan. The nutritional status of people in northern Bahr el-Ghazal, eastern Upper Nile and areas of Equatoria is rapidly deteriorating owing to lack of food. The livestock holdings of southern Sudan's pastoralist populations remain low, and distribution of emergency food aid is uneven owing to intensified cattle raiding throughout the region.

33. The intensification of hostilities in southern Sudan greatly disrupted relief food distribution to over 100,000 displaced persons in the Ame, Aswe and Atepi camps. Emergency airdrops had to be carried out for 35,000 displaced persons facing starvation in the wake of armed clashes in the Mundri area of western Equatoria in January 1994. The activities of relief agencies were interrupted by sporadic fighting at Nasir and Akobo in eastern Upper Nile. WFP had to cancel a plan to preposition 10,000 tons of food aid in Nasir, Ayod, Waat and Pibor owing to lack of agreement from the parties to the conflict and the outbreak of factional and clan hostilities in the Sobat basin area. Increased

looting of United Nations relief convoys along surface corridors in southern Sudan has been a major setback to the delivery of emergency food aid to affected populations.

34. In 1994, WFP continued to play a coordinating role in the Sudan for emergency food activities of the United Nations and its partners in relief, with primary responsibility for the discharge, bagging, clearing and transport to primary delivery points of food aid consignments arriving at Port Sudan. In several government-held areas of southern Sudan, the absence of international non-governmental organizations has, in some cases, obliged WFP to expand its role and act as the implementing agency for the actual direct distribution of food to the beneficiaries.

35. In the first half of 1994, WFP and international relief agencies delivered a total of 96,000 tons of emergency food aid to affected areas of the Sudan by air and along road, rail and river corridors. During the latter part of 1994, WFP will continue efforts to expand its surface delivery capacity in southern Sudan.

C. Non-food assistance

36. Humanitarian activities continued to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance to conflict-affected populations in all parts of southern Sudan and the transitional zones, to the displaced in Khartoum and to drought-affected areas in northern Sudan. The efforts of the United Nations focused on providing assistance in the areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, food security and emergency education. Within the framework of Operation Lifeline Sudan, the United Nations and its partners in relief launched humanitarian operations into southern Sudan from Khartoum and across the border from Kenya and Uganda. Operation Lifeline Sudan provided the framework for the humanitarian efforts of 30 international non-governmental organizations working in the region.

37. The total number of conflict-affected persons in need of non-food assistance in the Sudan is estimated at 5.2 million. Among these, UNICEF targeted 4.1 million people for emergency relief assistance in the southern states, transitional zones and displaced camps around Khartoum in 1994. The target population includes 700,000 children under the age of five and 1.6 million displaced persons.

38. In the first half of 1994, malnutrition rates among children had surged in several conflict-affected areas due to severe food shortages. Nutritional surveys conducted by relief agencies in March and April 1994, prior to the traditional "hunger gap" period lasting until the next harvest, revealed malnutrition rates ranging from 15 to 50 per cent among children under five in southern Sudan and the transitional zones.

39. The prevalence of unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation and hygiene practices in affected areas is compounding the health and nutrition problems in southern Sudan. Widespread malnutrition greatly increased the risk of children dying from measles or other preventable diseases. The few health facilities

operating in conflict-affected areas are in need of a regular supply of essential drugs, basic equipment and technical supervision, as well as training of health personnel in the management of infectious diseases.

Health

40. The health-care infrastructure in southern Sudan has collapsed as a result of the conflict. A decrease in the number of qualified health workers and lack of available drugs means that only an estimated one third of the population in the region has access to any form of health care. Displaced populations, mobile or concentrated in camps, are extremely vulnerable to measles, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis and other diseases that have reached epidemic proportions in many areas of southern Sudan.

41. Measles vaccination is a priority health intervention because of a close correlation between malnutrition and deaths attributed to the disease. In 1994, UNICEF has placed special emphasis on the implementation of a campaign for accelerated measles and polio immunization and vitamin A administration for children below the age of five. The campaign is targeting 4.4 million children throughout the country, 700,000 of whom are conflict-affected. By mid-1994, more than 220,000 children in southern Sudan had been vaccinated as part of the campaign.

42. In the first half of 1994, UNICEF distributed some 2,300 essential drug kits for health programmes in more than 80 locations in southern Sudan. UNICEF has expanded its support of non-governmental organization health interventions in the region, including in Ikotos, Kiyela, Narus, Chukudum, Akot, Yirol, Ayod, Fangak, Manajang and Lafon. UNICEF medical teams aboard WFP barges have provided curative health services at 40 population centres along the Nile river corridor between Renk and Juba.

43. Southern Sudan, contiguous with several high HIV/AIDS-endemic countries, is witnessing an increasingly heavy caseload of patients infected with the HIV virus, which has also reached communities in northern Sudan. The World Health Organization (WHO) has assisted the Ministry of Health to assess the epidemiological pattern of HIV infection in the Sudan, providing health education materials and diagnostic kits, training health staff and supporting blood banks. More emergency interventions are required to target high-risk groups and areas where HIV is very prevalent so as to contain the spread of the disease.

44. An estimated 75 per cent of the children in southern Sudan are infected with malaria and the mortality rate among infected children under five is extremely high. To address the problem, WHO is striving to control the spread of the disease through health education and the provision of anti-malaria drugs and laboratory equipment.

Nutrition

45. Some 120,000 malnourished children and pregnant and nursing mothers are receiving assistance in 130 supplementary feeding centres in southern Sudan, the transitional zones and in displaced persons' camps around Khartoum. By

mid-1994, UNICEF had provided more than 1,500 tons of supplementary food to these centres and provided training and support to feeding programmes in the displaced persons' camps in and around Wau, Juba and Malakal.

Household food security

46. To reduce dependency on food aid and increase food production among people affected by conflict and drought, the United Nations accelerated its efforts to promote household food security through crop production, veterinary and fishing activities.

(a) Crop production

By mid-May 1994, UNICEF had provided some 760 tons of seeds and almost 210,000 agricultural tools to communities in southern Sudan and the transitional zones to permit conflict-affected farmers to grow their own food. Non-governmental organizations distributed an additional 1,000 tons and over 300,000 tools to affected areas. In the first half of 1994, FAO provided cereal seeds to 238,000 drought-affected families in Kordofan and Darfur for subsistence crop production;

(b) Veterinary activities

Cattle herds in southern Sudan have been decimated by conflict and disease, especially rinderpest. UNICEF continued to expand its cattle vaccination programme in 1994 in an effort to build up herds and protect and promote food security of cattle-owners and their families in the predominantly pastoral areas of southern Sudan. By the end of May 1994, UNICEF-trained teams vaccinated more than 340,000 cattle against rinderpest and provided treatment for contagious bovine plural pneumonia (CBPP), trypanosomiasis and other livestock diseases. A complementary FAO rinderpest control programme targeting displaced livestock-owning pastoralists in northern Darfur, northern Kordofan and the transitional zones could not be implemented in 1994 owing to the non-availability of adequate resources;

(c) Fishing

Building on achievements in Akobo and Leer to increase the access of river communities to a major traditional food source, UNICEF supported the development of a new fishing programme in Old Fanjak. The programme provides canoes, fishing hooks, lines and nets through bush shops, women's groups and cooperatives. In 1994, UNICEF also provided twine and fishing hooks to some 16,000 displaced or vulnerable households in other conflict-affected areas of southern Sudan.

Emergency relief and shelter

47. The intensification of the military conflict in southern Sudan in 1994 has increased the need for relief and shelter assistance to displaced populations. Basic survival items and shelter materials were distributed in the first half of 1994 to about 100,000 displaced people relocated from the Ame, Aswe and Atepi camps in Equatoria. To respond rapidly to sudden displacements, UNICEF

continued to keep emergency stocks of shelter and relief materials such as plastic sheeting, blankets, cooking utensils and jerrycans. In the Khartoum displaced persons' camps, UNICEF provided basic shelter supplies to some 70,000 displaced people and supported efforts to improve living and hygiene conditions in the Mayo Farms displaced settlement.

Water and environmental sanitation

48. Nearly one and a half million conflict-affected and displaced people in the Sudan lack adequate water and sanitation facilities, owing to the destruction of infrastructure in rural areas, mass population movements and overcrowding. As a result, water-borne diarrhoeal diseases and guinea worm infection are widespread among children under five. To address the problem, UNICEF has implemented and supported projects to drill boreholes, install handpumps, construct latrines and train local health workers.

49. In Malakal, UNICEF, in collaboration with a national non-governmental organization, is installing sand filtration water supply systems and pit latrines in schools, primary health centres and households to benefit some 70,000 people in the area. UNICEF is also supporting the efforts of international non-governmental organizations working to improve the sanitation conditions in displaced communities in Renk and around Khartoum.

50. In SPLM-held areas, well-drilling operations and other water and sanitation activities continued to be hampered by lack of equipment, as well as insecurity. Although activities in these areas focused on the repair and maintenance of existing boreholes and handpumps, UNICEF and non-governmental organizations drilled 20 new boreholes and provided wells and water pumps in the region. Some 50 village health workers were trained in guinea worm eradication, and water filter cloths were distributed in three southern provinces.

Emergency education

51. Despite prolonged conflict, displacement and poverty, more than 900 schools are functioning in southern Sudan. Some 200,000 pupils - about 20 per cent of the estimated 1 million children of primary school age - are attending school, although often without the benefit of classrooms or education supplies. To improve the educational situation and provide a level of stability for children living in conflict areas, UNICEF has continued implementation of an emergency education programme involving the training of teachers and provision of educational materials to schools in affected areas.

52. By March 1994, UNICEF operations from Khartoum had served more than 250,000 conflict-affected children in southern Sudan and the transitional zones through the training of 959 teachers and the provision of essential education materials, including 1.4 million exercise books and 210,000 textbooks and teacher guides. In Juba, a regional child trauma centre is being established to provide technical support to institutions working with children in especially difficult circumstances, including children suffering from psycho-social trauma.

53. In SPLM-held areas, 102 educators and school supervisors attended teacher-training courses in the first half of 1994. Garden kits were distributed to 600

schools and education materials for 1,500 schools were in the pipeline. UNICEF continued supporting an international non-governmental organization project that is training teachers to identify and treat children suffering from trauma.

Capacity-building

54. In the second half of 1993, UNICEF began a programme to promote and develop the capacity of indigenous organizations and their personnel to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions for the people of southern Sudan. The main objective of the programme is to enable these local institutions to more effectively participate in the delivery and coordination of humanitarian assistance, through the provision of financial and technical support and training. In September 1993, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, the Relief Association of Southern Sudan, church groups, national non-governmental organizations and other indigenous institutions established a Humanitarian Response Working Group to discuss problems and ideas and formulate common strategies for the provision of relief assistance to the region. By June 1994, there were 23 registered national non-governmental organizations participating in the Working Group, four of which had begun humanitarian activities inside southern Sudan.

55. In 1994, UNICEF began supporting capacity-building workshops for indigenous institutions and national non-governmental organizations. The first workshop, held in April 1994, covered the planning and management of relief and development interventions and community participation in humanitarian activities.

D. Assistance to refugees

56. Since the start of the voluntary repatriation programme of Ethiopian refugees from the Sudan in June 1993, a total of 25,331 Ethiopians returned to their home country up to June 1994, primarily to the Gondar and Tigray areas. It is anticipated that an additional 24,000 Ethiopian refugees will be repatriated from the Sudan by the end of the first quarter of 1995.

57. On 16 April 1994, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of Eritrea signed a memorandum of understanding for the repatriation of Eritrean refugees from the Sudan. However, discussions were still continuing in mid-1994 between UNHCR and the Governments of Eritrea and the Sudan on the procedures and preparations required to enable the start of the repatriation programme.

58. By March 1994, an estimated 88,000 Eritrean refugees in the Sudan had returned to Eritrea, independent of any formal repatriation programme.

59. About 288,000 Eritreans and 59,000 Ethiopians remained in refugee reception centres and rural settlements in eastern Sudan in mid-1994. UNHCR continued to provide multisectoral assistance to these refugees, including health services, water and sanitation activities, education and shelter, pending their anticipated voluntary repatriation to their respective countries of origin.

IV. ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES

60. In addition to the activities described above, several Member States have provided information on action taken in compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/200.

Denmark

61. In 1993 Danish humanitarian aid to the Sudan amounted to almost 34 million Danish kroner, or more than US$ 5 million. For 1994, the expected Danish Government grants for humanitarian aid to the Sudan are expected to be as follows:

62. The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) is going to grant Danchurchaid DKr 15 million (equivalent to US$ 2.3 million) towards the organization's participation in the grand-scale air and surface relief operations in southern parts of the Sudan, implemented by Sudan Emergency Operations Consortium (SEOC). Danchurchaid will also use the grant to provide a contribution towards the aid work carried out by the Sudan Council of Churches for internally displaced persons from the south in northern Sudan.

63. DANIDA will grant the Danish Red Cross Association DKr 4 million (equivalent to US$ 615,000), representing the Association's 1994 contribution towards the relief work carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Sudan.

64. Save the Children Fund Denmark has indicated that the organization would like to provide emergency supplies for both the south and the north of the Sudan this year to the value DKr 5 million, in each part of the country, total value DKr 10 million (equivalent to US$ 1.5 million). DANIDA is going to treat the applications favourably once they are received.

65. Furthermore, DANIDA will grant DKR 8 million (equivalent to US$ 1.2 million) to UNHCR in 1994 towards the organization's programmes for Somali, Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in Somalia, Kenya and the Sudan.

66. DANIDA is considering a grant in 1994 to UNICEF of DKr 4 million towards its programmes in the Sudan.

67. A grant to WFP will also be considered.

Finland

68. Finnish humanitarian aid to the Sudan for the year 1993 was Finnish markka 500,000 through Médecins sans Frontières, FmK 1 million through ICRC, FmK 1 million through Finnchurchaid and FmK 4 million through WFP. In the year 1994 the amounts are FmK 300,000 through Médecins san Frontières and FmK 5 million through WFP.

Germany

69.

		Amount (in DM)
(a) Allowances of the Foreign Office 1993		
Purchase and transport tarpaulins, purchase of yarn for nets	German Agro Action	400 000.00
Food dropping	Caritas	700 000.00
Transport of relief items	German NGO	19 537.50
Emergency programme	ICRC	500 000.00
	Total	1 619 537.63
(b) Allowances of the Foreign Office 1994		
Food dropping	Caritas	700 000.00
Wool blankets, mosquito nets cloth and transport	German Red Cross	748 000.00
Contribution to programme	UNICEF	500 000.00
Costs of transport for a truck	German NGO	80 000.00
Mosquito nets cloth and transport	German Agro Action	774 600.00
Transport of wheelchairs	German NGO	7 762.50
26 air lifts	German NGO	195 670.00
	Total	3 006 032.50
(c) Allowances of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (MECD) 1993/1994		
Nutrition securing programme	Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)	6 900 538.00
Purchase and transport of 300 tons beans, 50 tons oil, 50 tons salt and sugar	GTZ	500 000.00
Basic health services	MECD	1 893 000.00
Reconstruction help	MECD	2 000 000.00
Community development centre for displaced persons	MECD	1 930 000.00
	Total	13 223 538.00

Italy

70. In the Sudan Italy is undertaking the following emergency initiatives to benefit the local population as well as refugees (who are primarily from Eritrea).

71. The special programme amounts to approximately 12 billion lire, and provides for the following bilateral initiatives, entrusted to three Italian NGOs:

(a) The Khartoum area: a social and health assistance programme entrusted to the NGO "Comitato Collaborazione Medica" (CCM) - Medical Collaboration Committee);

(b) The Kassala area: a multisectoral project in the sectors of water supply, environmental hygiene and agriculture, entrusted to the NGO "Disarmo e Sviluppo" (DISVI) (Disarmament and Development);

(c) Southern Sudan: a food and health aid project entrusted to the NGO "Associazione per lo Sviluppo" (APS) (Association for Development), which is already present in the territory.

72. The beginning of the activities of the first two NGOs has been impeded by the fact that they have not yet registered with the competent Sudanese authorities, and by the difficulties presented by this procedure.

73. The third NGO (APS) has faced numerous difficulties because of the well-known obstacles standing between the Central Government and any type of operation, humanitarian and otherwise, to benefit the residents of southern Sudan.

74. Two other operations (valued at 1.7 billion lire) - currently being reformulated - are agricultural initiatives aimed at supplying machines, parts and above all technical and agricultural assistance. They are located in Dongola (the Saleim Centre for agricultural mechanization) and Khartoum (the Abu Halima Mechanical Centre).

Norway

75. A total amount of Norwegian kroner 40,900,000 has been donated.

76. Through the Norwegian Red Cross NKr 5 million has been allocated to refugee programmes.

77. Through UNICEF NKr 3,577,939 has been allocated to refugee programmes, food and tents.

78. Through Norwegian NGOs NKr 32,291,000 has been donated for emergency assistance, transportation, food, medicines, rehabilitation and programmes for students.

Sweden

79. The Swedish Government has taken decisions on the following emergency assistance for the fiscal year 1993/1994.

	Millions of Swedish kronor
WFP*	6
UNICEF* Emergency Relief Assistance	7.5
Sweden Church Aid, transport	6
Swedish Evangelical Mission, food aid	7.8
International Aid Sweden, water health, education	6.3
Country allocations - regional/global funds	
WFP	12
Various Swedish NGOs	3.5
Total	49.1

* Contribution to the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, Sudan 1993.

80. In addition to the SKr 49.1 million one could add Swedish global non-earmarked funds to ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Swedish NGOs, United Nations bodies, etc., which may be targeted to the Sudan.

Switzerland

81. Emergency assistance from Switzerland to the Sudan amounted in 1993 to 5,074,540 Swiss francs and was allocated to the following institutions: UNHCR, WFP, ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross and to four Swiss relief groups. An amount of SwF 200,000, approximately, was attributed for activities undertaken directly through the Swiss Embassy.

82. Assistance provided during the first trimester of 1994 amounted to SwF 720,360 and was attributed to Terre des Hommes and to other Swiss relief groups.

V. OBSERVATIONS

83. The situation in the Sudan remains one of the most enduring and serious humanitarian crises on the face of the globe. While estimates vary, reliable information indicates that anywhere from 500,000 to 1.5 million persons may have lost their lives to the combined effects of civil hostilities and periodic drought since the recrudescence of the conflict in 1988. Millions more have been affected in irreparable ways because of disease, displacement, loss of livelihood and intermittent, if not constant, threats to their security.

84. Mediation efforts initiated since September 1993 by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) represent a renewed attempt to promote a negotiated peace settlement at the regional level among the parties to the conflict. Despite this and other important diplomatic efforts, the underlying political tensions and factional conflicts, as reported in last year's report, remain unabated.

85. Simultaneously with its role in mediating a negotiated peace settlement, IGADD has since March of this year facilitated mediation efforts undertaken by the United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in concert with United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan officials to secure agreement among the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Mainstream factions on greater humanitarian access to civilian populations in war-affected areas of the South. As discussed in paragraphs 14 and 22, in May 1994, those efforts resulted in a signed agreement among the Government and two principal SPLM factions designed to improve access to those in need. As a follow-up to this agreement, discussions are currently under way to establish modalities for the passage of relief convoys in areas contested by the belligerents.

86. The potential impact of this agreement has to some degree been attenuated because of continuing security incidents reportedly involving local militias as well as SPLM factions. Moreover, the interruption of many relief operations during the dry season military campaign during the first five months of 1994 now necessitates a continued reliance on airlift/airdrop operations which, while extremely costly, provide the only certain means of accelerating deliveries of critically needed food and non-food relief supplies.

87. The continued lack of agreement regarding various operational modalities for cooperation between the Government and some international non-governmental organizations based in Khartoum has seriously impaired the potential impact of relief programmes in both the north and in the so-called Transitional Zone. As such, it is a cause for major concern given the vital role of those NGOs in the humanitarian relief efforts.

88. Progress achieved and continuing constraints to humanitarian assistance efforts - including questions of resource mobilization, the cost of relief operations, security of relief personnel and humanitarian access - have constituted the focus of discussions at two informal donors' consultative meetings organized successively in Geneva in September 1993 and June 1994 by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. It is hoped that these discussions have served to renew donor commitment to funding emergency humanitarian programmes despite setbacks caused by factors originating in the ongoing civil conflict.